



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|-----------------|-------------|---------------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 10/537,340 | 12/16/2005 | Christopher John Holloway | | 3463 |

7590 02/02/2009
CHRISTOPER JOHN HOLLOWAY
WESTDOWN, PORTSMOUTH ROAD
HINDHEAD, SURREY, GBN GU26 6BQM
UNITED KINGDOM

| |
|----------|
| EXAMINER |
|----------|

BOSWELL, CHRISTOPHER J

| | |
|----------|--------------|
| ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
|----------|--------------|

3673

| | |
|-----------|---------------|
| MAIL DATE | DELIVERY MODE |
|-----------|---------------|

02/02/2009

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

| | | | |
|------------------------------|--|--|--|
| Office Action Summary | Application No. 10/537,340 | Applicant(s) HOLLOWAY ET AL. | |
| | Examiner CHRISTOPHER BOSWELL | Art Unit 3673 | |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 06 October 2008.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 37-75 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 37 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 38-44, 50, 51, 67-71, 74 and 75 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 45, 46, 52-66, 72 and 73 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 03 June 2005 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 38-44, 50, 51, 67-71, 74 and 75 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Number 2,775,947 to Mosler.

Mosler discloses a storage apparatus, comprising a plurality of containing means (22 and 26) for containing, a plurality of sliding means (70) for sliding, and storage means (20) for storing, wherein one sliding means is removably secured in one containing means (figures 1, 7 and 8) by a lock (60) and the containing means are removably secured to the storage means (figures 1-5), wherein each sliding means is removably secured in each containing means by different keyed locks (column 4, lines 19-28) which are also separate mechanisms independent from how the containing means is removably secured to the storage means (23, 24, 27 and 28), as in claim 38.

Mosler also discloses a key (25) for releasing a locking action (61) securing the sliding means to the containing means (figure 8), as in claim 39, as well as further comprising a pair of push rods (56 and 57) for securing the containing means to the storage means and for releasing the containing means from the storage means, as in claim 40, and wherein the containing means is formed by coupling a top part (43) to a bottom part (44) to enclose the sliding means and to render a pair of coincide slots (the slots that receive the sliding means) on two sides of the

Art Unit: 3673

containing means, as in claim 41, as well as the top part has a pair of top slots (figure 7) situated on a plurality of exterior sides (between 40 and 50) of the top part, as in claim 42, and where the bottom part has an entry opening (the opening to allow the sliding means to be slidably retained), a web (45) and a pair of slots (slots defined between partitions 46) and a pair of runners (46) situated on exterior sides of the bottom part, a pair of locking arms (61; figure 6) situated on the bottom part and each locking arm has a distal guide (the end of the bolt adjacent the lock), an entry guide (the perpendicular arm connecting the distal guide to the lug) and a lug (the distal end of the bolt), as in claim 43, wherein the pair of coincide slots are formed by aligning the pair of top slots with the pair of bottom slots (figures 6 and 8), as in claim 44, as well as the containing means has a front side (the front side of the containing means) and a back side (the rear side of the containing means), and either of the front side and the back side is insertable into the storage means (figure 8), as in claim 50.

Mosler additionally discloses a security apparatus, comprising a top part (43) having a pair of top slots (figure 7) on its sides, and a bottom part (44) having a pair of bottom slots (slots defined between partitions 46) on its sides, a web (45), a pair of runners (46), an entry opening (52) for a slide (70) and a key (25) leading to a pair of locking arms (61; figure 6) each with a distal guide (the end of the bolt adjacent the lock), wherein a box (22 and 26) is formed by coupling the top part to the bottom part and forming a pair of coincide slots (the slots that receive the slide) by having the pair of top slots coincide with the pair of bottom slots (figures 6-8), and wherein the box contains the pair of locking arms (figure 7) and each arm contacted by the key to

Art Unit: 3673

either lock or allow the slide to move thereby opening the security apparatus (column 4, lines 19-28), as in claim 51.

Mosler also discloses the pair of locking arms each further comprises a proximal guide (the distal end of the locking arm), as in claim 67, wherein the pair of locking arms each further comprises a lug (the perpendicular arm connecting the distal guide to the proximal guide), as in claim 68, as well as the lug is located anywhere between the distal guide and the proximal guide (figure 7), as in claim 69, and a placement of one of the pair of lugs on one of the pair of locking arms may be different from a placement of another of the pair of lugs on another of the pair of locking arms (depending on the size and shape of the box; figures 7 and 8), as in claim 70, wherein a size of one of the pair of lugs on one of the pair of locking arms may be different from a size of another of the pair of lugs on another of the pair of locking arms (depending on the size and shape of the box 3; figures 7 and 8), as in claim 71.

Mosler further discloses adjacent the entry opening is a pair of parallel webs (45) capable of supporting a key inside the box (figure 8), as in claim 74, as well as the pair of locking arms are situated on the bottom part by mounting onto a pair of circular mounting ends (60), as in claim 75.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claim 37 is allowed.

Claims 45-49, 52-66, 72 and 73 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Art Unit: 3673

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

The claims are allowable over the prior art of record because the teachings of the references taken as a whole do not teach or render obvious the combination set forth, including that of the sliding mean comprising a pair of channels each defined by a pair of webs, a distal end of the sliding means comprises a snap with a clip engageable by a tab, the snap is situated in-between a pair of returns each accompanied with a guide web, as well as a key enables withdrawal of the slide from the box once the pair of outwardly extending projections of the key engages the pair of lugs as the distal end of the key displaces the tab.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claim 38-44, 50, 51, 67-71, 74 and 75 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The following patents are cited to further show the state of the art with respect to multi-component locking receptacles:

U.S. Patent Number 6,591,765 to Braddock, U.S. Patent Number 5,154,497 to Smith, U.S. Patent Number 4,653,818 to DeBruyn, U.S. Patent Number 1,060,018 to Pape, U.S. Patent Application Publication Number 2006/0232381 to Gauthier.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to CHRISTOPHER BOSWELL whose telephone number is (571)272-7054. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:00 - 4:00 M-F.

Art Unit: 3673

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Patricia Engle can be reached on (571) 272-6660. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Christopher Boswell
Examiner
Art Unit 3673

CJB /cb/
January 29, 2009

/Carlos Lugo/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3673